Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): Method for the detection of an analyte in a sample, comprising the steps:

(a) preparing a solid phase on which a preformed conjugate of a poly(C_2-C_3)-alkylene oxide and an analyte-specific reactant that interacts with the analyte has been applied such that the preformed conjugate is immobilized in a test area,

(b) incubating the sample with the solid phase and a detection reagent that provides a detectable indication of the presence or/and amount of the analyte, such that any analyte in the sample binds to the reactant bound to the solid phase and

(c) detecting the presence or/and the amount of the analyte in the sample with the detectable indication.

Claims 15-59 (canceled)

Claim 60 (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the solid phase is coated with a first member of a high affinity binding pair and said analyte specific reactant is conjugated with a second member of ~~a~~ said high affinity binding pair, wherein said preformed conjugate is immobilized via said high affinity binding pair.

Claim 61. (previously presented) Method as claimed in claim 60, wherein said analyte-specific reactant is selected from analyte-specific antibodies, antigens, nucleic acids, nucleic acid analogues and lectins.

Claim 62 (previously presented) Method as claimed in claim 14 wherein unspecific binding to the solid phase is reduced.

Claim 63 (previously presented) Method for detection of any analyte in a sample, comprising the steps:

(a) forming a conjugate of a poly(C_2-C_3)- alkylene oxide and an analyte-specific reactant that interacts with the analyte, then

(b) preparing a solid phase by applying thereto the conjugate of the poly(C_2-C_3)- alkylene oxide and the analyte-specific reactant that interacts with the analyte such that the conjugate is immobilized,

(c) incubating the sample with the solid phase and a detection reagent that provides a detectable indication of the presence or/and amount of the analyte, such that any analyte in the sample binds to the reactant bound to the solid phase and

(d) detecting the presence or/and the amount of the analyte in the sample with the detectable indication.

Claim 64. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the conjugate is immobilized by direct adsorptive binding or by covalent coupling or by coupling via high affinity binding pairs.

Claim 65. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the conjugate is immobilized by coupling via high affinity binding pairs.

Claim 66. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the solid phase is first coated with a first partner of a high affinity binding pair and then said preformed conjugate is immobilized.

Claim 67. (previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the high affinity binding pair is selected from the group consisting of streptavidin, avidin/biotin, desthiobiotin, iminobiotin, aminobiotin, antidigoxigenin antibody/digoxigenin, and antifluorescein antibody/fluorescein.

Claim 68. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said preformed conjugate is a modified analyte specific solid phase reactant which is incubated with a further alkylene oxide modified solid phase reactant which acts as a blocker.

Claim 69. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein said further alkylene oxide modified solid phase reactant does not react with said analyte.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The method of claim 69, wherein the non-analyte specific molecules are proteins or polysaccharides.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The method of claim 68, wherein the blocker binds to the sold phase by adsorptive or covalent interactions.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The method of claim 71, wherein the blocker binds to the solid phase by coupling via high affinity binding pairs.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, further comprising applying an alkylene oxide modified blocker to said solid phase.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the sold phase is non-porous.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein an analyte specific region is immobilized on a spatially limited test area.

Claim 76 (previously presented): The method of claim 75, wherein the test area is a miniature test area having a diameter of 10 µm to 2 mm.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the solid phase comprises several test areas on which different preformed conjugates are immobilized.